

APR 08 2003



IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

26/A1+D
LP
4-11-03

Applicant: Walter Viegener
Serial No.: 09/200,179 Art Unit: 3679
Filed: November 25, 1998 Examiner: Dunwoody, Aaron M.
For: NON-DETACHABLE PRESS FIT ARRANGEMENT BETWEEN A
FITTING AND AN END PORTION OF A METAL PIPE

AMENDMENT

Honorable Assistant Commissioner
for Patents
Washington, D.C. 20231

Sir:

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APR 10 2003
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In response to the official Office Action dated January 9, 2003, please amend the above-identified application as follows:

IN THE CLAIMS

Please delete claims 7 and 8 and add new claims 23-25, as shown in the Claim Summary Document attached hereto.

REMARKS

In response to the official Office Action dated January 9, 2003, claims 7 and 8 have been deleted since they are redundant to the limitations of claim 1, and new claims 23-25 have been added. Claims 1, 2, 6-9, 11 and 18-22 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103 as being unpatentable over Irwin in view of Saka. This rejection is respectfully traversed.

Independent claim 1 is directed specifically to a non-detachable fitting between an end portion of a metal pipe and a socket of a fitting. The socket has an interior space with an annular anchoring groove for receiving a sealing ring. A receiving groove in the socket has a holding element resiliently secured thereto and cold formed together with the socket. The holding element has a material penetrating component formed by a plurality of cutting arcuate projections pointing in the direction of the anchoring groove and whose ends penetrate the metal pipe after cold forming. The annular anchoring groove is located in front of and separate from the receiving groove relative to the pipe end.